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General

The former territories of New Guinea and Papua achieved self-government on December 1, 1973 and were amalgamated to form the combined state of Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea is located in Southeastern Asia, part of a group of islands including the E half of the island of New Guinea between the Coral Sea and the South Pacific Ocean, E of Indonesia.

The climate is tropical. Northwest monsoons are from December to March. Southeast monsoons are from May to October with slight seasonal temperature variations.

The terrain is mostly mountains with coastal lowlands and rolling foothills.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the kina consisting of 100 toea.

Government

Papua New Guinea is a parliamentary democracy system of government with 20 provinces. The government recognizing Elizabeth II as chief of state. The capital is Port Moresby.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Sunday; Easter Monday; Queen's Birthday; July 23, Remembrance Day; September 16, Independence Day; December 25, Christmas; and December 26, Boxing Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on copra crushing, palm oil processing, plywood production, wood chips production, mining of gold, silver, and copper, construction, and tourism.

Languages

The official language of Papua New Guinea is English.

Pidgin English is commonly spoken. Motu is spoken in the Papua area.

There are over 700 different languages used by the various tribes. There are 715 indigenous languages.

Mined Areas

Within Kamrau Bay, the area bounded by the parallels of 3°38.9'S and 3°40.9'S, between the meridian of 133°38.9'E, and the coast N of Tanjung Simora is dangerous.

Within Port Moresby and approaches, the following areas are now considered to be safe for surface navigation but are not safe for anchoring, diving, dredging, trawling, cable laying, and submarine bottoming:

- a. 9°32'00"S, 147°03'00"E.
- b. 9°32'00"S, 147°07'30"E.
- c. 9°31'02"S, 147°07'23"E.
- d. 9°30'19"S, 147°05'31"E.
- e. 9°29'30"S, 147°05'30"E.
- f. 9°29'31"S, 147°07'11"E.
- g. 9°28'00"S, 147°07'00"E.
- h. 9°28'00"S, 147°03'00"E.

The area bounded by the land, the parallel of 9°36'S, and by the meridians of 147°11'E, and 147°18'E.

Regulations

The regulations are extractions from the Shipping, Port, and Harbor Regulations.

Any person who deposits in a port or on the shore thereof, any garbage, rubbish, putrefying matter, dead animal, or refuse of any description, shall be guilty of an offense.

The master of a vessel shall not permit any oil or inflammable liquid to be pumped out of or otherwise discharged from the vessel into the waters of any port.

A master of a vessel who, whilst the vessel is lying alongside a wharf, or whilst within 183m of a wharf, permits ashes to be discharged into a port, shall be guilty of an offense.

The master of a vessel having explosives onboard shall not permit the vessel to berth at any wharf without the permission of a Port Authority.

The master of a vessel shall permit explosives or inflammable liquids to be loaded onto or unloaded from the vessel during daytime only, and by such means, at such places, and under such conditions as a Port Authority directs.

The master of a vessel shall not anchor the vessel within 183m of any wharf used by overseas vessels or near or at the approach of any wharf in such a manner as to impede the egress or ingress of any vessel.

The presence of skin divers is denoted by a red square flag with a white St. Andrew's cross.

Vessels seeing this signal should exercise caution and avoid the area if possible.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is KILO (-10).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Douglas Street, Port Moresby.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 1492, Port Moresby.